



## COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

SYBIL BRAND COMMISSION FOR INSTITUTIONAL INSPECTIONS  
Room 372, Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration  
Los Angeles, CA 90012 – (213) 974-1465

FOUNDER  
Mrs. Sybil Brand

CHAIRPERSON  
Mrs. Eleanor R. Montano

VICE CHAIRPERSON  
Mrs. Helen Stathatos

Mr. Frank S. Bacio  
Mr. Vito Cannella  
Mr. James Cragin  
Mr. John A. Hammargren  
Mr. Carl E. Moore  
Mr. Michael A. Russell

### **MINUTES OF THE REGULAR** **SYBIL BRAND COMMISSION FOR INSTITUTIONAL INSPECTIONS** **MEETING OF JULY 21, 2004**

#### **CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by Chair Montano at 10:03 a.m.

#### **OPENING CEREMONIES**

Chair Montano led the pledge of allegiance followed by a moment of silence.

#### **ATTENDANCE - ROLL CALL**

##### Present:

Chair Eleanor R. Montano  
Vice Chair Helen H. Stathatos  
Frank Bacio  
Vito Cannella  
John Hammargren  
Carl Moore  
Michael Russell  
Sheriff Lee Baca, Ex Officio

##### Absent

James Cragin

##### Others Present

Lt. Linda Arthur-Parra  
B. Eugene Romig, Executive Office  
Jim Corbett, Executive Office  
Dedie Ward, Commission Services  
Sherry Scates, Commission Staff  
Gabriel Alexander, Staff

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#### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF JULY 14, 2004**

On motion of Commissioner Cannella, seconded by Commissioner Hammargren and unanimously carried, the Minutes of July 14, 2004 were approved as submitted.

### **CHAIR'S REPORT**

Chair Montano reported that she spoke with Mrs. Cragin who advised that Commissioner Cragin would try to make today's meeting.

### **TREASURER'S REPORT**

Commissioner Bacio reported that there were no changes to the Commission's Charitable Fund.

### **STAFF REPORT**

Jim Corbett, Commission Services, reported on the following:

- Staff is working with Chair Montano to prepare a 5-signature scroll for the Commission to present to Ms. Greene in appreciation of her years of service to the Commission.
- County Counsel is still researching the legality of the Commission's use of cameras on inspection visits.

### **CORRESPONDENCE/REPORTS**

Chair Montano advised that final program audit reports were received from the Auditor-Controller regarding the Aziza Home and the Arrowhead Emancipation Program Home, which would be available for the Commissioner's review.

### **FACILITY/GROUP INSPECTION REPORTS**

#### **Revisit Neumen Group Home-Reading House – 71#2**

Chair Montano and Commissioner Moore visited this facility on July 15<sup>th</sup> and were accompanied by Lenora Copeland and Robert Pate, Regional Managers of the Community Care License Division of the Department of Social Services, Linda Reusser, Kirk Barrow, Cheryl Ezn, and Ramona Wilson of the Quality Assurance Division of the Department of Children and Family Services, and Doris Reed, Auditor-Controller. Commissioner Moore reported that none of the problems reported by the Commission on their 2003 and July 6, 2004, inspections had been remedied. All those in attendance were in agreement with the Commission's assessment of the facility, yet the social worker assigned to this facility had visited a week prior to the Commission's last inspection and had not reported any problems with the facility. Supervisors from each of the departments were notified and the juveniles placed by the County were removed from the home. Commissioners expressed their appreciation for those department representatives present at the inspection and for the cooperative and

productive working relationship that has developed between the Commission and their respective departments.

### **Touch of Life Foundation #1 – 106#3**

Commissioner Hammargren visited this facility on July 16<sup>th</sup> and found no one at home, therefore, no inspection was made at that time.

### **Central Arraignment Court**

Chair Montano and Commissioner Hammergren visited this facility on July 20<sup>th</sup> and gave it a rating of **unsatisfactory/needs improvement**. Areas of Concern: The general maintenance of the facility was unsatisfactory. The air vents have not been cleaned in years and presents a serious health issue; the turn-out gear is way too small for most deputies and there are not enough units to go around which presents a serious safety issue; no suicide kits are available; there are no recording devices for the black & white monitors; graffiti is evident; and the toilets are clogged and filthy. Commissioners suggested a uniform placement of gear, etc. on both sides of department and the use of a weekly check off system. Lt. Arthur-Parra was asked to follow-up on the vent situation and the turn-out gear and report back. Commissioner Hammargren will also contact Court Administrator, Cecil Mills regarding these matters.

### **Central Juvenile Hall**

Commissioners Moore, Russell and Bacio visited this facility on July 20<sup>th</sup> and gave it a rating of **satisfactory** with no areas of concern observed or reported.

### **Way In Youth Shelter/Salvation Army - 111 #1**

Vice Chair Stathatos and Commissioner Cannella visited this facility on July 15<sup>th</sup> and gave it a rating of **satisfactory** with no areas of concern observed or reported.

### **Los Angeles Youth Network/Beachwood – 61 #3**

Vice Chair Stathatos and Commissioner Cannella visited this facility on July 19<sup>th</sup> and gave it a rating of **satisfactory** with no areas of concern observed or reported.

### **Hollywood Superior Court**

Vice chair Stathatos and Commissioner Cannella visited this facility on July 15<sup>th</sup> and noted that it was non-operative at this time. No areas of concern were observed or reported.

## **DEPARTMENT UPDATES ON FACILITY OPERATIONS**

### **Twin Towers Correctional Facility**

Lt. Linda Arthur-Parra, Sheriff's Department, reported that the current total population of this facility is 4,080, consisting of 2,133 male and 1,911 female. The total population for all County facilities is 17,791, which has decreased from 22,000, in part due to the early release programs. Lt. Arthur-Parra also noted that the Department of Justice was currently conducting an inspection of the Twin Towers facility and has reported an excellent improvement overall.

## **DISCUSSION WITH SHERIFF LEROY BACA**

Sheriff Baca gave a brief overview of the status of his department and his hopes and concerns for its future. He noted that safe neighborhoods depend on getting the tax increase measure on the November ballot. He advised that there is \$170,000 left over from the signature gathering efforts, but that several million dollars more will be needed to effect change. If the tax measure passes in November, giving his department badly needed money and man-power, crime stats will go down. Commissioners related their concerns regarding safety issues at several courts (turn-out gear, panic buttons, life-scan equipment) and asked that Lt. Arthur-Parra to follow-up and report back. Sheriff Baca advised that the Commission should also contact Richard Martinez, who is in charge of the courts, regarding these issues. Chair Montano requested staff to contact Mr. Martinez and invite him to the Commission's next business meeting. Commissioners thanked Sheriff Baca for assigning Lt. Arthur-Parra as his liaison to the Commission and complimented her good work. Sheriff Baca thanked the Commissioners for their efforts and advised that he views Commissioners as his Inspector Generals.

## **NEW BUSINESS/ANNOUNCEMENTS**

None

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

**MATTERS NOT ON THE AGENDA (TO BE PRESENTED AND PLACED  
ON A FUTURE MEETING AGENDA)**

None

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, Chair Montano adjourned the meeting at 12:17 p.m.

**Respectfully submitted,**

***Sherry Scates***  
**Staff, Commission Services**